

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 118883

10

ORIGIN EUR-25

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TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI, XG

SUBJECT: FINNISH AMBASSADOR SEEKS US VIEWS ON CSCE

REF: HELSINKI 1076

1. FINNISH AMBASSADOR TUOMINEN CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STABLER JUNE 3 TO ASK CURRENT US VIEWS ON THE PROGRESS OF CSCE. TUOMINEN SAID HE WAS "UNINSTRUCTED" BUT HAVING SENT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN A COPY OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S MAY 29 SPEECH (REFTEL), HE THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE TO FOLLOW UP WITH A CALL.

2. STABLER NOTED DIFFICULTIES WITH CBM'S AND BASKET III ITEMS SUCH AS HUMAN CONTACTS ON WHICH THERE HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY NO PROGRESS THE LAST MONTH OR SO. AS FAR AS THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 118883

US IS CONCERNED WE WISH TO MOVE AHEAD AS RAPIDLY AS

POSSIBLE, BUT DECISIONS ARE NOT IN THE HANDS OF ANY ONE GOVERNMENT AND IT IS EVIDENT THAT PARTICIPANTS ATTACH FAR TOO MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO THE CONFERENCE TO PERMIT THE RUBBER STAMPING OF A MEANINGLESS CONCLUSION. THERE ARE SO MANY UNAGREED MATTERS, PARTICULARLY ON BASKET III THAT IT IS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO ENVISAGE A FINAL STAGE IN JULY. THERE IS ALSO THE UNRESOLVED PROBLEM OF CONFERENCE FOLLOW-ON. STABLER INDICATED THAT A DECISION ON WHETHER STAGE III SHOULD BE HELD AT THE SUMMIT WOULD DEPEND ON THE

RESULTS EMERGING FROM STAGE III.

3. STABLER SAID THAT THE PACE IS SLOW BUT THIS IS NEITHER UNREASONABLE NOR SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE DISCUSSION. FLEXIBILITY WILL BE REQUIRED ON ALL SIDES. STABLER CITED REPORTS OF GROWING DISENCHANTMENT, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE NINE, SOME OF WHOM WERE CONSIDERING ADJOURNMENT, POSTPONEMENT OR EVEN CALLING IT OFF. WE WOULD NOT WISH A CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIETS WHICH SUCH ACTION MIGHT PROVOKE. WE ARE SURE THE SOVIETS ARE AWARE OF THIS DISENCHANTMENT.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION STABLER RECALLED RECENT REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO SOVIET SOURCES TO EFFECT THAT STAGE III MIGHT BE PUT OFF UNTIL NEXT FALL. TUOMINEN SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD HEARD SOMETHING ALONG THESE LINES ABOUT A WEEK AGO; ORIGINATING IN PORTUGAL. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO HOST A JULY SESSION BUT FEARED DIFFICULTY IN PULLING IT OFF IF A DECISION WERE MADE TOO LATE. ON THE OTHER HAND THE TOURIST INDUSTRY WILL SUFFER IF JULY HOTEL SPACE IS BLOCKED VERY MUCH LONGER TO NO PURPOSE.

5. STABLER SAID CSCE WOULD DOUBTLESS BE A TOPIC OF CONVERSATION DURING PRESIDENT NIXON'S MOSCOW VISIT.

6. TUOMINEN NOTED THAT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE NATURALLY MORE INTERESTED IN CSCE THAN WAS THE US, WHICH FIELDDED A LOWER LEVEL DELEGATION IN GENEVA. STABLER POINTED OUT THAT SINCE FEBRUARY OUR DELEGATION HAS BEEN HEADED BY OUR AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. WHILE NOT IN FOREFRONT WE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 118883

ARE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT AND MUST SEEK RESULTS WHICH ARE DEFENSIBLE AND JUSTIFIABLE. WHILE WE DO TAKE VIEW THAT ONE CANNOT REMAKE SOVIET SOCIETY WITH SUCH A CONFERENCE AND THAT THEREFORE A REASONABLE APPROACH TO BASKET III ISSUES SHOULD BE SOUGHT, NONETHELESS WE WOULD NOT WISH TO MAKE A MOCKERY OF THE CONFERENCE BY SIGNING AN EMPTY AGREEMENT. THERE ARE NEARLY TWO MONTHS TO THE END OF JULY AND IF THE SOVIETS WERE TO MAKE MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONS,

STAGE II COULD BE COMPLETED FAIRLY SOON. KISSINGER

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